

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 15, 19, 20, 22, and 32. Claim 15 has been amended to recite a self-carrying "single layer" plastic film "having release properties towards adhesives and being" adapted to be releasably disposed on an adhesive. Dependent claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 32. Dependent claim 20 has been amended to recite that the materials having release properties "further" comprise inorganic fillers, and claims 23-31 have been cancelled without prejudice. Support for the claims may be found, inter alia, in the disclosure at page 3, second paragraph. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 15, 19, 20 and 23-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Wilkie* (US 5,981,047). Claims 23 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Ooms et al.* (US 5,942,557). Claims 15 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Higgins* (US 5,932,352). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Adamko et al.* (US 5,948,517).

Essentially the Examiner's position is that *Wilkie* discloses the self-carrying plastic film recited in claim 15 in view of the

Examiner's position that the cold seal release layer disclosed by Wilkie meets the "self-carrying" limitation of that claim.

Similarly the Examiner has taken the position that Higgins discloses the self-carrying plastic film recited in claim 15.

The Examiner has also taken the position that *Ooms et al.*

discloses the method of making a plastic film and the plastic film recited in claims 23 and 31 respectively and that *Adamko et al.* discloses the release film recited in dependent claim 18 because *Adamko et al.* discloses polyolefin compounds as the released materials.

In response, applicant has cancelled claims 23 and 31 thereby obviating the rejection over *Ooms et al.* With respect to *Adamko et al.*, which was cited with respect to dependent claim 18, it appears that the Examiner had misunderstood applicant's arguments with respect to that claim. To clarify the situation, applicant has rewritten dependent claim 18 in independent form as new claim 32 to specify that the materials having released properties comprise both silicone compounds and polyolefin compounds incorporated as additives within the plastic film. As *Adamko et al.* is specifically directed to a silicone free release film, it is respectfully submitted that *Adamko et al.* neither anticipates nor renders obvious applicant's invention as recited in claim 32. Similarly, *Adamko et al.* fails to anticipate or

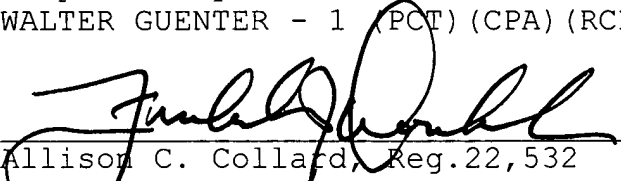
render obvious claim 15 as dependent claims 19, 20 and 22 as these claims all require the materials having release properties comprise silicone compounds, including dependent claim 20 in which the release materials comprise both silicone materials and inorganic fillers.

With respect to *Wilkie* and *Higgins*, applicant has amended claim 15 to make clear that the "self-carrying film" refers to a single layer plastic film which has the release characteristics. In contrast, the films according to *Higgins* and *Wilkie* are constructed of several layers, and the release layer has no mechanical firmness in the sense of a self-carrying film. Thus, *Wilkie's* release layer is not self-carrying, but rather must be coextruded with the core layer. Similarly, *Higgins* requires the release layers to be disposed on a polymeric substrate in order to support the release layer. Simply put, neither *Higgins* nor *Wilkie* discloses a self-carrying plastic film from a single film layer that has the release properties nor is there any disclosure or suggestion to form a release layer as a self-carrying film.

In summary, claims 15 and 20 have been amended, claims 18 and 23-31 have been cancelled, and claim 32 has been added. In

view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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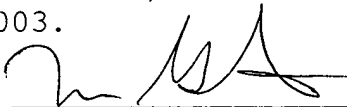

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Enclosure: Copy of Petition for 2-month Extension of time (Large Entity)

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Maria Guastella